

PART FIVE

FRAGMENTS *from* FRANCE



"You're comin' along with me, my lad, as soon as this is over."
(Herman feels that he does know a better one.)

B

Capt. Bruce Bairnsfather

By Bruce Bairnsfather

Fragments from France
(Four Parts in One Volume)

Bullets and Billets

**A Few Fragments from
His Life**

FRAGMENTS
FROM FRANCE

Part V



Bruce
Baumfather

PHOTO BY S. LANGFIER

FRAGMENTS FROM FRANCE

By
CAPTAIN
BRUCE
BAIRNSFATHER



Part V

Toronto: WILLIAM BRIGGS

London: THE BYSTANDER

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INTRODUCTION



WAR carries with it an over-measure of sadness and misery of all kinds. It is, of course, not only the men on the fighting line who suffer from hardship and from wounds and who are ready to meet the final sacrifice of life itself, but the circles of their home folks, the mothers, the sisters, the wives, the loved ones who, if all went right, would become wives, whose anxieties for those on the fighting lines become themselves tragedies.

Any man who, without sacrifice of truth or concealment of perils and troubles which are too real to be made light of, can do something to give to the boys at the front and to the home folks in the rear some diversion from the sadness and the strain, who can make clear that, even in the midst of trouble and on the edge of tragedy, man is in his nature capable of finding in his surroundings and in life itself the sense of humour which serves to lighten the cloud of sadness—such a man is a benefactor in the largest sense of the term.

Captain Bairnsfather has had long practical experience in the fighting line. He has been in the service from the beginning of the War, and for a large part of that time has been actively engaged at the front. The early breaks in his service in the field and in the trenches were caused by the necessity of retiring to hospital for the healing of honourable wounds.

Bairnsfather is evidently a man of such elasticity of temperament that no amount of fatigue, or hardship, or peril, or pain can quench the ebullition of his spirit. With a charming vitality, an exuberant sense of humour, he possesses, fortunately for himself, for his comrades and for the world, the

imagination of the creative artist. He is gifted also with a dramatic sense and a technical skill that give to his sketches of camp life, of happenings in the trenches, and of the relations of the men with one another, a very real vitality.

Bairnsfather's characters live, and they have come to constitute a most valuable addition to the lives of the artist's comrades.

The young Scotsman began his drawings merely for the amusement of his comrades in the shacks or in the trenches. The first sketches were made on the rough boards of a more-or-less ruined hut, or on the rocks which were dislodged in the digging of the trenches. These sketches were later transcribed for the amusement of the home folks to whom the artist was writing, and were passed from hand to hand in the home circles. One of his pictures Bairnsfather sent to the Editor of "The Bystander," who realized that here was value not only as a work of art, but as a means of inspiration for loyal service and for the cheerful endurance of hardship. These drawings have now become a cheering influence with English-speaking people throughout the world, for all groups of the English race now have their boys and their hearts engaged in this great struggle. The sketches have also been reproduced in connection with French text and with Italian text. Our Allies are surely entitled to secure their share of the fun and the encouragement.

I doubt whether any previous war has produced an artist whose work possesses precisely the Bairnsfather quality. The artist has placed the civilized world in his debt.

In the days of the first Napoleon the great caricaturist, Gilray, produced with the cordial approval of his fellow countrymen portraits of "Boney" under various conditions of success and of failure. "Boney" was, between the years 1805 and 1809, the "Bogey," the terror not only of British

children, but of the grown folks. Gilray's presentation of Napoleon while characterized by humour, was fiercely bitter, and the general effect alternated between apprehension and contempt. Although different entirely from the work of Gilray, the cartoons of Bruce Bairnsfather have been by eminent soldiers and critics compared with those of the great caricaturist of Napoleonic times. It would be more to the point to compare Gilray with Raemaekers.

Bairnsfather does not deny the brutality of the German, but he does not concern himself with it to any great extent. His task is mainly to show that even on the battle line, life has its humour and trouble has its offsets. He is doing his part in keeping the spirit of the fighting men safe and in good tone for their task.

The original series of Bairnsfather's drawings, together with the later group of designs which will bring the record down to the participation of America in the War, are now made available for American readers. The Bairnsfather creations must find their way to our boys in the trenches, and they should help also to bring cheer to the home-circles which are giving their boys to the Cause, the world's fight against Barbarism.

New York, April 2, 1918.

GEORGE HAVEN PUTNAM.



Romance will return if we wait long enough

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"All shell-holes are the same to me when I'm with you, darling."

NOEL (and they DO know it)



**"Their Christmas don't seem to fall on the
same day as ours, does it Bert?"**

A Tidy Job



"S'pose we'll 'ave to stop behind and tidy all this up when it's over, Bert."

Second-Lieut. Mabel Smells Powder (No novelty)



"There you are Bert; I told you we'd 'ave 'em
'ere before we'd finished."



"Bit of all right, bein' one of these 'ere dukes, Bert,
and 'ave a bed like this to sleep in."

"Duds"



"Quoth the Raven . . ."



"Now then, you two, there's nothing more till 4:30"
(Old Bill is not going to the Zoo again).

The Point of View



**"Well, if it don't get merrier than this by Christmas
it won't be up to much."**



“ 'E 'as to pick up odd bits of paper and match-ends down the camp, sir; but 'e don't seem to 'ave 'is 'eart in 'is work, sir!”

Old Bill's War-Aim



"To live to see a day like this!"



"If you'll just 'old that blinkin' ladder tight a bit longer, mate,
I'll 'ave the big 'un for you!"

"To live to see a day like this!"



"What an 'ell of a mess you've



u've made of the name of William!"

Duty Before Pleasure

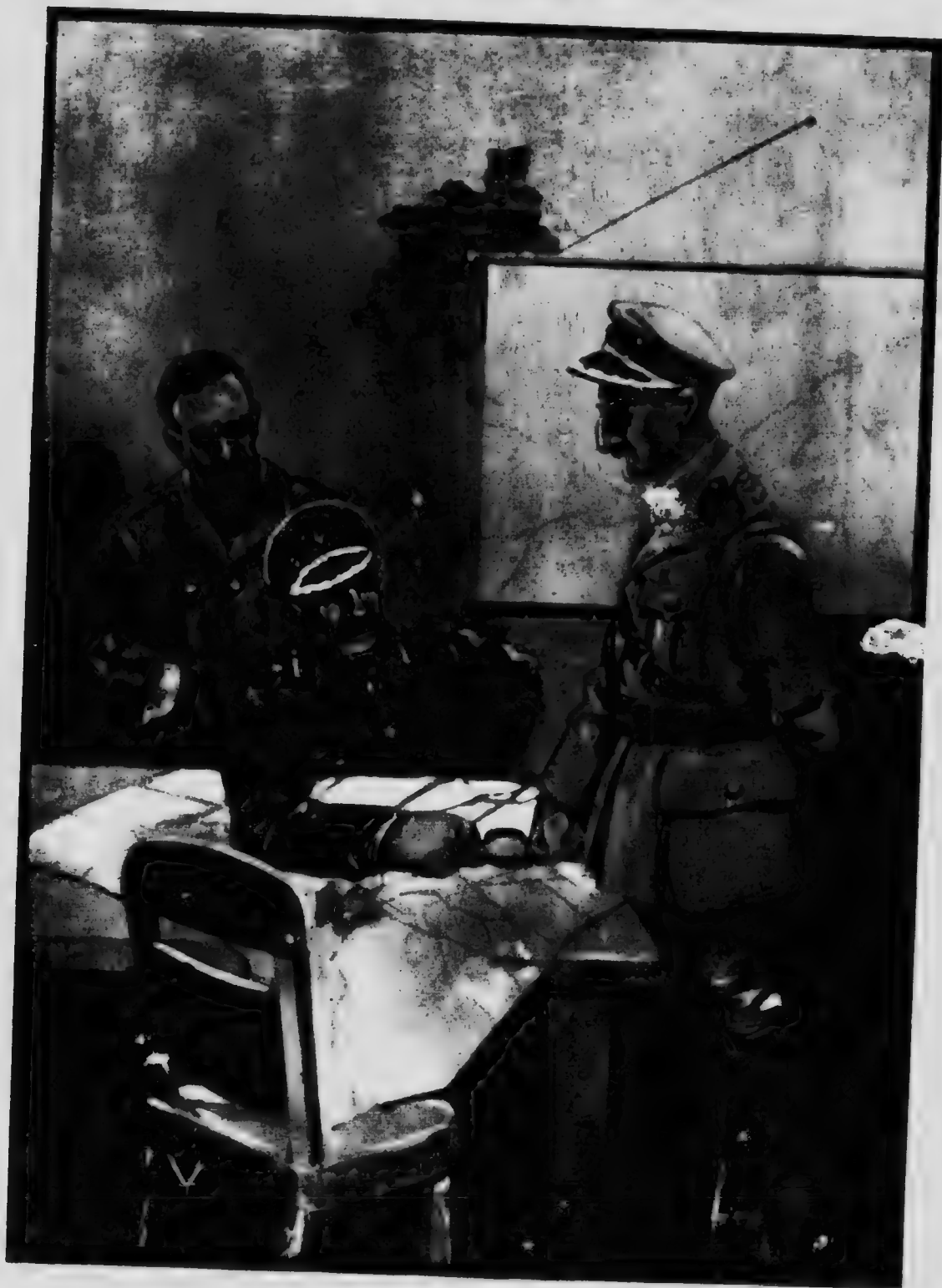


"Well, if yer thinks yer ought to, I'll lend yer
this bit o' mistletoe o' mine."



"Look 'ere if I gets blown up in any more o' yer dreams,
there's going to be trouble."

It's the Little Things that matter



**"As soon as that fortified incubator on the left
of that road is taken, Lille is ours!"**

"Dry Ginger" in the Trenches

25



"Stow that blinkin' row can't yer? You'll bring on an offensive
with that hiccupin' o' yours."

The Price of a Pint



"As far as I can make out from the paper, Bert, breweries seem to 'ave been 'ard 'it by this blinkin' war!"



"One shell-less day a week wouldn't be a bad idea would it, Bert?"

"Old Bill" at Madame Cheerio's



"You are shortly going on a journey across a field; an ugly man with a square head will cross your path; you then hear a loud noise, after which you will rise very high in your profession."

(Old Bill, incited by Bert to have his fortune told before returning to the front, didn't like the sound of this forecast at all.)



"You're comin' along with me, my lad, as soon as this is over!"
(Herman feels that he does know a better 'ole.)

Something on Account



"I see it's security for the Future we are fightin' for, Alf."
"A little of that on account, wouldn't be a bad idea, Bert."



"What the Hindenburg will happen when I have to stop?"

"Lead Kindly Light . . ."



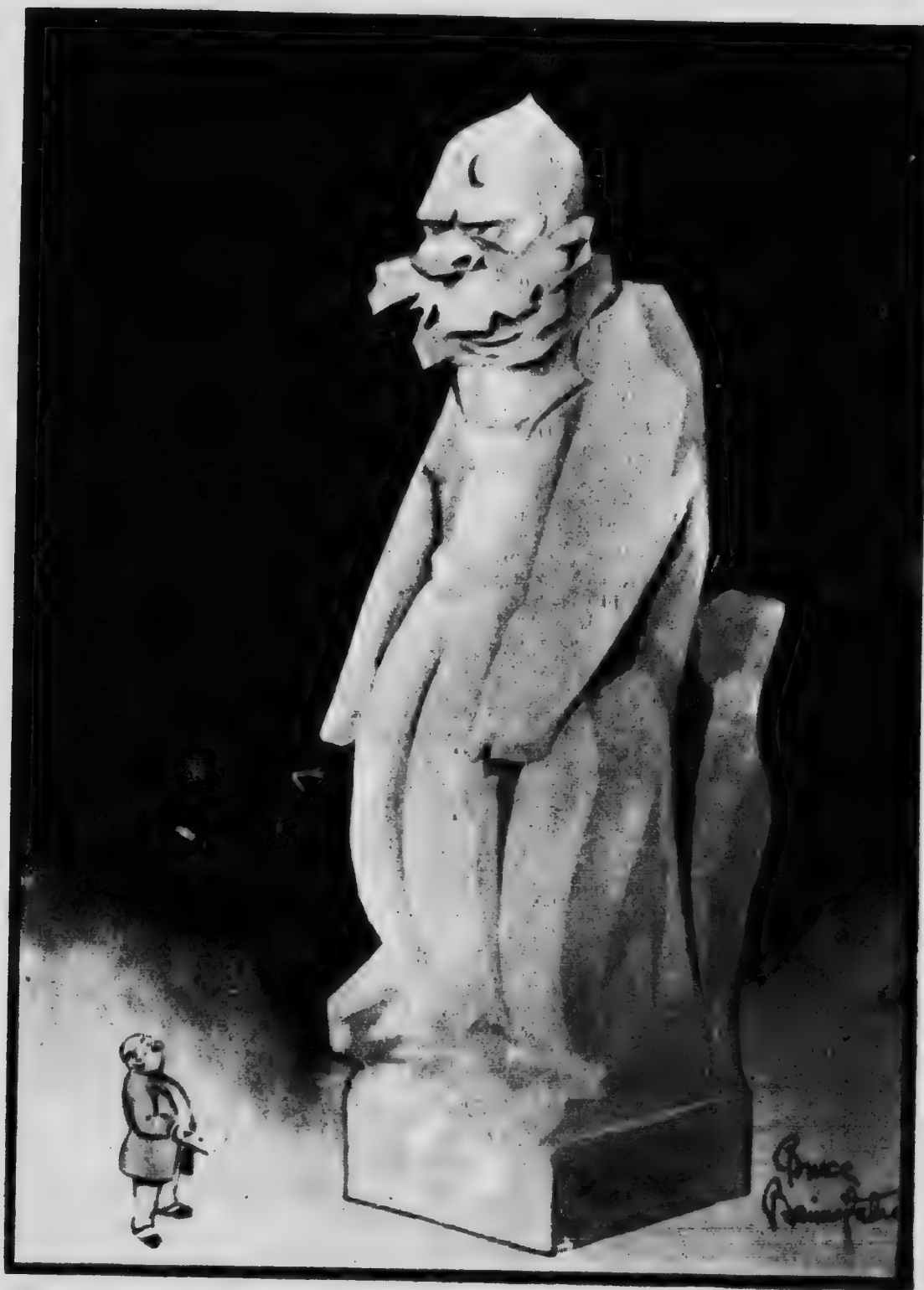
"Yes, I know the road's rotten, but I'm sure this habit of 2d-Lieut. Smith's of finding his way back to billets with his private repeating Verrey pistol (that his aunt sent him) will lead to trouble."

The Best Noose of the War

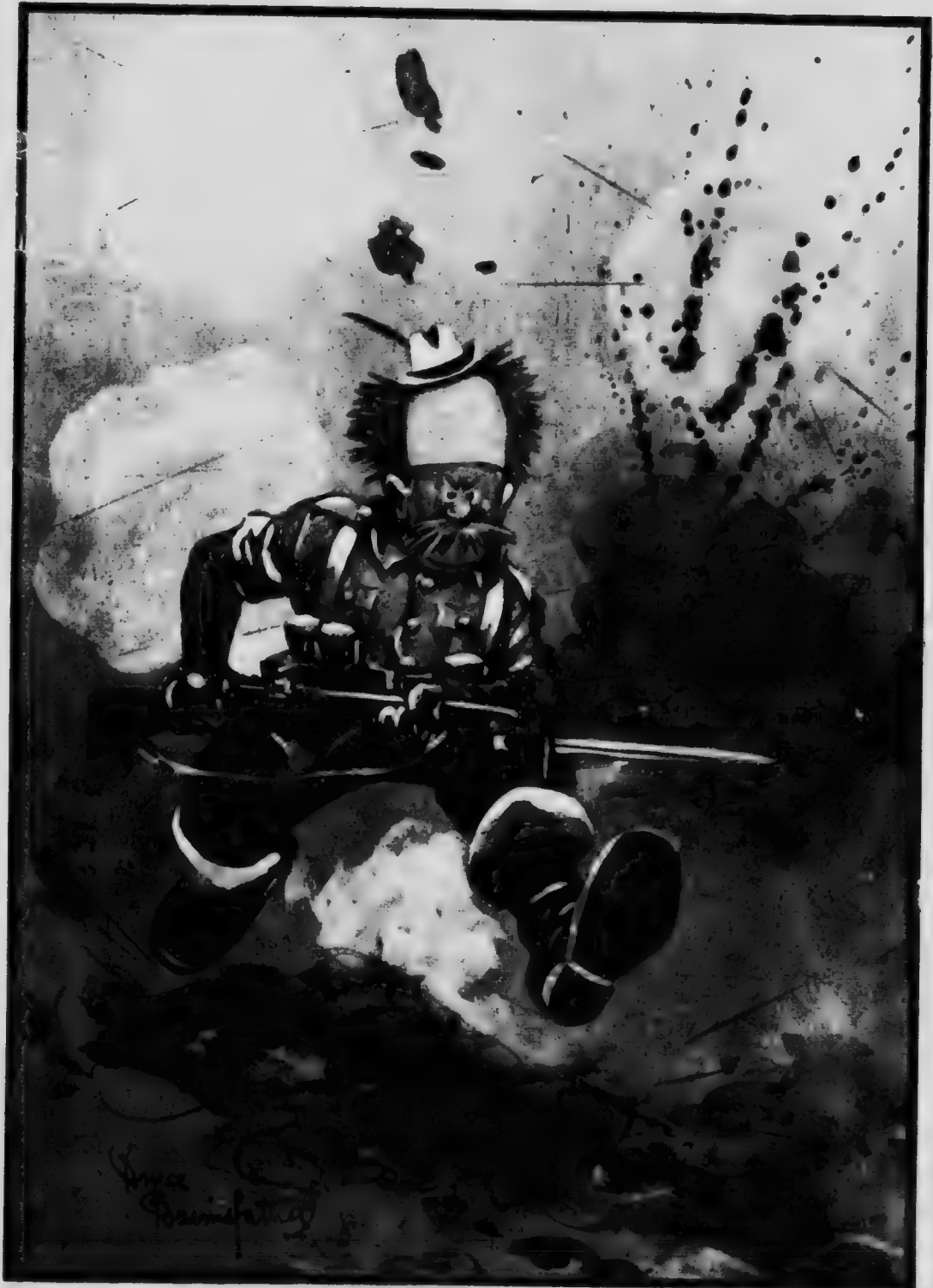


"If only but I suppose it's impossible."

Mars — NOT Venus



This enthralling work is the latest production of Mr. Ephraim Pepstein, the famous sculptor. You will be glad to see that going into the Army has not spoiled his touch.



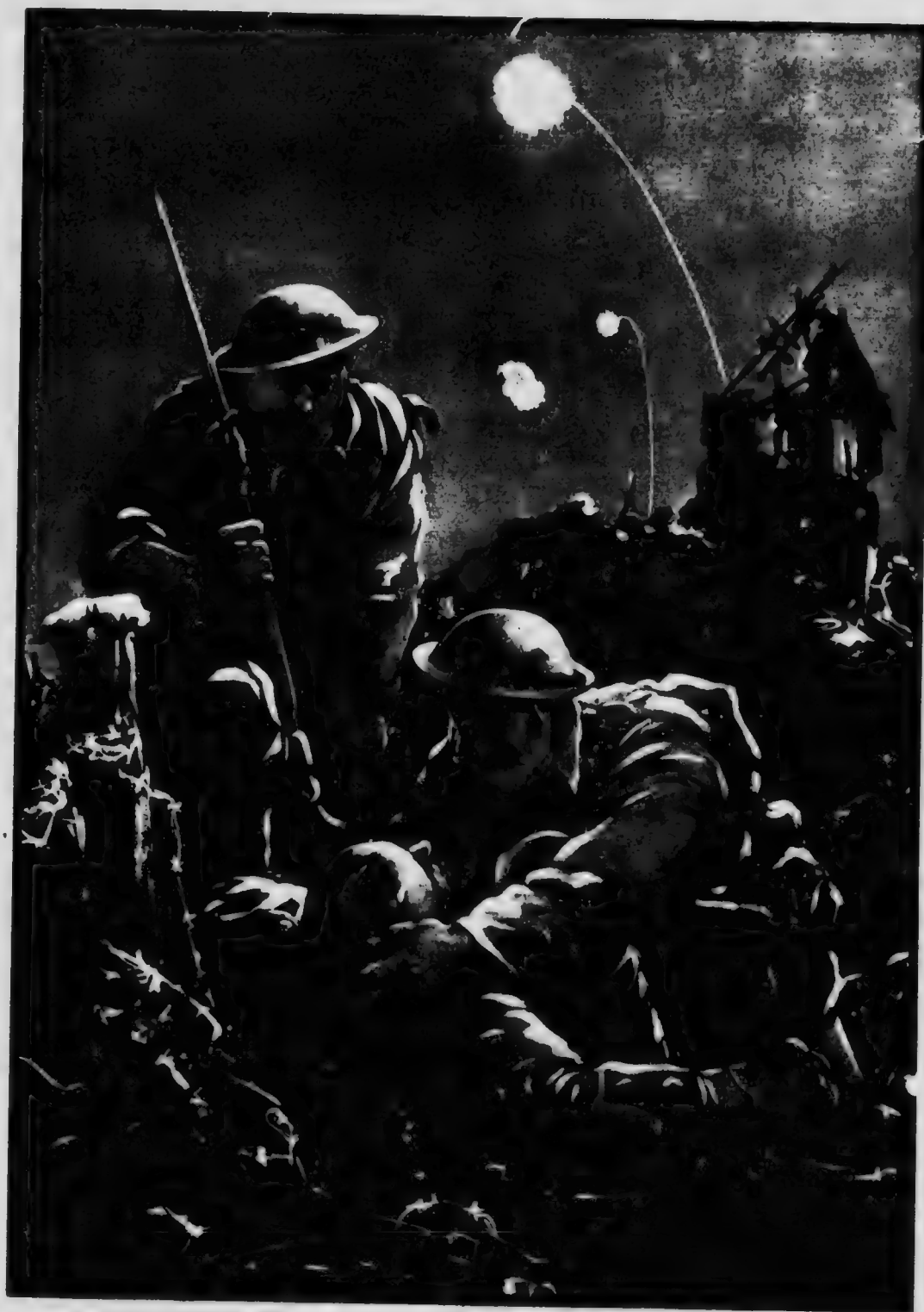
It was unfortunate that Old Bill had been playing the Baron in "Puss in Boots" at the Armentieres Panto, as he hadn't time to change completely before that attack broke out.

19..?



No! this isn't an air-raid bomb bother. Only his grandson. Herold

No! this isn't an air-raid bomb bother. Only his grandson, Harold,



Old Bill: "It's our officer."

More "Entanglements"

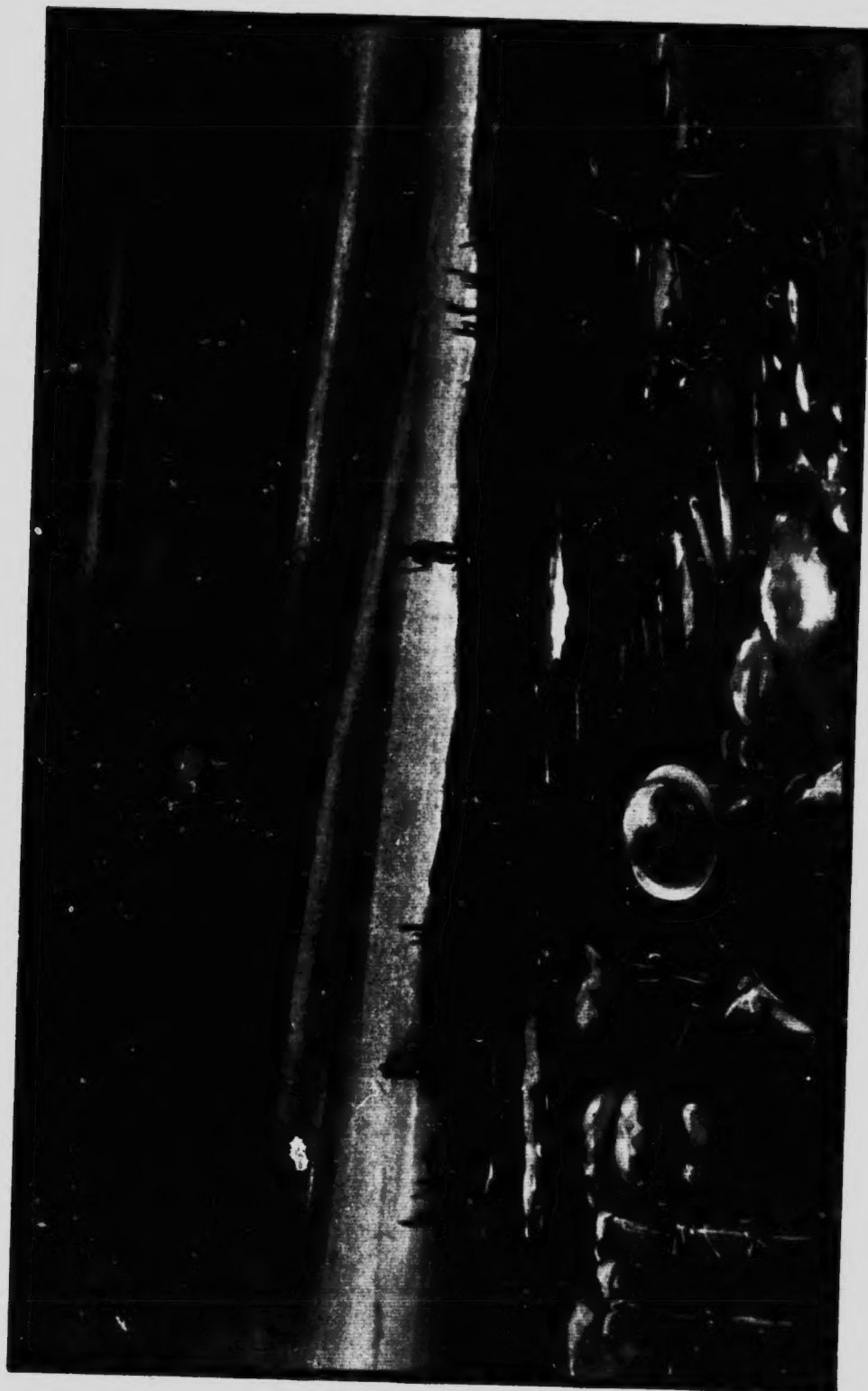


Bathing at Casse les Bains is going to be rotten again this year.



Pte. 90045 Gerrard, after three quarters of a mile of this, sincerely hopes it won't be a dud.

C. C.



The last man.

The last man.

By Bruce Bairnsfather

"A War Lord of Laughter"

"The Man Who Made the Empire Laugh"

The Putnams have completed arrangements with the English publishers, to bring out in the United States all of Captain Bruce Bairnsfather's work.

Fragments from France

8° 143 Full-page Plates, 15 Smaller Illus. \$1.75

Captain Bairnsfather's sketches from the front set all England chuckling, and have met with as hearty a welcome from Americans lucky enough to see them. They have made war-fed "Tommies" rock with laughter, amused and cheered the people at home, even made German prisoners forget to "strafe." Humorous, human documents, calculated to take a deal of the bitterness out of the war.

The original four parts are continued in this volume.

Bullets and Billets

12° 18 Full-page, 23 Text Illustrations. \$1.50

The story of Captain Bairnsfather's own experiences in the war, a story always amusing and often moving. It has exactly the same character as his drawings, the same homely humor, the same quaint attitude toward life and danger.

"'Bill,' 'Bert,' and 'Alf' have turned up again. Captain Bairnsfather has written a book—a rollicking and yet serious book—about himself and them, describing the joys and sorrows of his first six months in the trenches. His writing is like his drawing. It suggests a masculine, reckless, devil-may-care character and a workmanlike soldier. Throughout the book he is as cheerful as a schoolboy in a disagreeable football match."—*London Evening News*.

Bairnsfather—A Few Fragments from His Life

8° 53 Illustrations \$1.25

Because of the amazing and growing popularity of the most successful of all humorous artists, an edition is offered of this book published in England some time ago. The text is by a friend, the pictures by the artist himself, and critical chapters by the Editor of *The Bystander*.

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